

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A carburetor, comprising:
 - a carburetor body having a throat;
 - a fuel bowl connected to said carburetor body and storing a quantity of fuel, said fuel bowl in fluid communication with said throat;
 - an internal vent passage in fluid communication with said throat; and
 - a primer assembly, comprising:
 - a piston assembly slidably supported by said carburetor body, said piston assembly and said carburetor body defining a variable volume primer chamber therebetween in fluid communication with said fuel bowl and with said internal vent passage, said piston assembly slideable with respect to said carburetor body to vary the volume of said primer chamber, said piston assembly including a portion moveable into blocking engagement with said internal vent passage to allow displacement of air from said primer chamber into said fuel bowl.
2. The carburetor of Claim 1, wherein said carburetor body includes a circular wall having an inner surface, said piston assembly in sliding and sealing engagement with said inner surface.
3. The carburetor of Claim 1, further comprising a cap attached to said carburetor body and having an opening, at least a portion of said piston assembly received through said opening of said cap and guidingly supported thereby.
4. The carburetor of Claim 1, further comprising a priming passage within said carburetor body, said priming passage fluidly communicating said primer chamber and said fuel bowl.
5. The carburetor of Claim 1, wherein said piston assembly comprises:
 - a first piston supported by said carburetor body for sliding movement relative to said carburetor body; and
 - a second piston supported by said first piston for sliding movement relative to said first piston.
6. The carburetor of Claim 5, wherein said second piston includes said portion moveable into blocking engagement with said internal vent passage.
7. The carburetor of Claim 5, wherein said first and second pistons are supported for confined sliding movement along a common axis.

8. The carburetor of Claim 5, further comprising a first return spring disposed under compression between said carburetor body and said first piston to bias said first piston outwardly from said carburetor body.

9. The carburetor of Claim 8, further comprising a second return spring disposed under compression between said first and second pistons to bias said second piston into blocking engagement with said internal vent passage upon actuation of said piston assembly.

10. A carburetor, comprising:

a carburetor body having a throat;

a fuel bowl connected to said carburetor body and storing a quantity of fuel, said fuel bowl in fluid communication with said throat;

an internal vent passage in fluid communication with said throat; and

a primer assembly, comprising:

a resilient primer bulb mounted to said carburetor body, said primer bulb and said carburetor body defining a variable volume primer chamber therebetween in fluid communication with said fuel bowl and with said internal vent passage, said primer bulb compressible to vary the volume of said primer chamber; and

a blocking element disposed within said primer chamber and movable into blocking relationship with said internal vent passage upon depression of said primer bulb to allow displacement of air from said primer chamber into said fuel bowl.

11. The carburetor of Claim 10, wherein said blocking element is engaged by at least a portion of said primer bulb upon depression of said primer bulb to move said blocking element.

12. The carburetor of Claim 11, wherein said primer bulb includes an internal annular lip engaging said blocking element.

13. The carburetor of Claim 11, wherein said blocking element includes at least one passageway through which air may pass between said primer bulb and said blocking element.

14. The carburetor of Claim 10, further comprising a priming passage fluidly communicating said primer chamber and said fuel bowl.

15. The carburetor of Claim 10, wherein said blocking element is slidably supported by said carburetor body for confined movement along an axis.

16. The carburetor of Claim 10, wherein said carburetor body includes a bore in which at least a portion of said blocking element is slidably received, said internal vent passage extending from said bore.

17. The carburetor of Claim 10, wherein said internal vent passage extends into said carburetor body from said primer chamber, said blocking element moveable into sealing engagement with said carburetor body upon depression of said primer bulb to block fluid communication between said primer chamber and said internal vent passage.

18. The carburetor of Claim 10, further comprising a return spring between said blocking element and said carburetor body, said return spring biasing said blocking element outwardly of said carburetor body.

19. The carburetor of Claim 10, further comprising:
an annular wall projecting from said carburetor body and defining a cavity in which at least a portion of said primer bulb is received; and
a retainer element engageable with said annular wall to capture said portion of said primer bulb between said retainer element and said carburetor body.

20. A method of priming a carburetor for starting an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

depressing a resilient primer bulb to move a blocking element into blocking relationship with an internal vent passage of the carburetor to seal a fuel bowl of the carburetor from the internal vent passage; and

depressing the primer bulb further to displace air from within the primer bulb into the fuel bowl to pressurize the fuel bowl and force fuel from the fuel bowl into a throat of the carburetor.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said first depressing step further comprises engaging a portion of said primer bulb with said blocking element to move the blocking element toward a body of the carburetor and into blocking relationship with the internal vent passage.

22. The method of Claim 20, further comprising the additional step of releasing the primer bulb to allow a return spring to bias the blocking element out of blocking relationship with the internal vent passage such that air may re-enter the primer bulb.